

THE HERON HERALD



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Former student takes stand against oil pipeline

By Amelia David
Staff Writer

NPA alumna and Alaska native, Samantha Biasca, left her life in New York City to join a movement she cared immensely about. For a month she worked, prayed, lived, and protested on the building site of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Dakota Access Pipeline is the proposed transportation of 450,000 barrels of Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. Despite pressure from various organizations, Dakota Access has failed to consult tribes or address the environmental impacts of the pipeline. The current route of the pipeline goes under the Missouri River two times. Not only does this create environmental concerns but it also damages burial grounds, village grounds and sundance sites. The water from the river is essential for the wellbeing of the environment and the people. The building of the pipeline creates many risks for the

contamination of drinking water along with destruction of sacred lands.

The Camp of the Sacred Stones, a group of protesters along the pipeline, was formed in April and has been actively protesting the pipeline since. On August 5th, youth from the Oceti Sakowin arrived in Washington D.C. after running from North Dakota to Washington DC to deliver a message to halt the construction of the pipeline. More and more people began joining the cause. Soon camps like Red Warrior Camp and the Oceti Sakowin Camp were formed. These groups are not a part of the original Sacred Stone Camp but share the same goal as the camp, to stop the construction of the pipeline.

Biasca described the pipeline and protests as the, “Perfect storm of horrific events that just caught the indigenous nations attention and we all came together in a way that we have not done, ever.” Tribes from all over the world came together to take part in the pro-

See BIASCA page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA BIASCA
Biasca found that traditional these tents actually held up better than the more expensive factory made tents some people brought with them for the approaching winter. She takes this as a reminder of the importance of indigenous knowledge in our culture.

The last frontier

NPA climate change group travels to Alaska



By Talavan Cohen
Staff Writer

Imagine you are climbing a rugged mountain. “As you approach the summit, it is as if you enter an entirely other universe. The fog rolls around you, clouding your vision. All you can see is your mere fingertips, inches away from your face. Any further you’d be able to see nothing.” Cairo Aguilar experienced this surreal situation on the slopes of Alaska’s Mt. Eyak last summer, during the NPA Climate Change Group’s Alaska trip. The NPA senior recalled what followed. “As we stood there at the very top of the mountain, for a split second the clouds cleared... [and] we could see for miles; all the way back to Anchorage, across Prince William Sound. ... [It was] incredible.

After terrorist attacks unexpectedly dashed their plans to attend the 2015 Paris climate change summit, the group was reportedly split on how their remaining funds should be allocated. “Some people wanted to ... focus on local events and spreading awareness in the community,” Aguilar explained. “Others wanted to... use the money for other purposes, like taking a trip to Iceland.” Eventually, a compromise consensus was reached. The group would film a documentary in Alaska.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG KING
TOP: Maddy Scott, senior, paddles in a backpacking raft on Saddlebag Lake. Saddlebag Glacier is now almost invisible in the far background, as it has melted considerably in two decades. BOTTOM: U.S. Forest Service Biological Science Technician Luca Adelfio takes the Climate Group on a hike through the wildlands surround the famous Copper River Delta.

After spending two days in Anchorage, the students traveled (via a seven hour ferry ride) to Cordova, Alaska, on the eastern side of Prince William Sound—the hometown of NPA history teacher Arnold King. On their first day in Cordova, the climate change group explored most of the isolated town, which can only be reached by boat or plane. “Cordova was gorgeous. It was a great place to really see the firsthand effects of climate change,” NPA senior

Georgia King recounted. “When the temperatures rise, there aren’t as many fish, ...and people there rely on the fishing for their income.”

Once primarily a deepwater port for the Kennecott copper mine, falling copper prices and the catastrophic 1964 Good Friday earthquake transformed Cordova into a small boat fishing town—albeit one of the most productive in the country, routinely breaking

See ALASKA page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLE SNOW
Elle Snow, a former sex trafficking victim, teaches anti-trafficking workshops through her organization Game Over. This workshop will most likely be brought to NPA next spring, making NPA the first school in California to formally educate its students on the issue of sex trafficking.

Local organization targets sex trafficking of teens

By Morgan Hartlein Allen
Staff Writer

“He had a gun,” Elle Snow recalled, a former sex trafficking victim and founder of Game Over, Inc. “I couldn’t escape.”

When she was 19, Snow met a man in Eureka who gained her trust over the course of a month through many conversations. “He had just come here to pick up weed,” she explained, adding that this didn’t strike her 19-year-old self as strange. Believing him to be “boyfriend material,” she agreed to travel to Sacramento with him, but when she awoke the next morning, she learned that he was not who he claimed.

“Everything happened very quickly ... [The] next thing I know, I’m being trafficked.”

Elle Snow

The man informed her that he was a pimp and she was now his prostitute. In addition to threatening Snow and using violence against her, he sent threats to her family in Humboldt, warning them that his cousin would attack them if they made any attempts to rescue her.

After two days of this abuse against Snow, the man brought her to a brothel. “Everything happened very quickly ... [The] next thing I know, I’m being trafficked,” she said. She was trafficked for a total of eight months before she was able to call a friend and escape.

Snow went on to testify against the man twice, most recently in 2014, in Humboldt County, where he abducted a 16 year old girl and attempted to traffic her. Since the trial, she decided to start an anti-sex trafficking non-profit organization to combat

See SNOW page 3

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The Word

What is your opinion on the new mandatory vaccination in schools, including our middle school?



Kastel-Riggan

"I think people should be able to choose whether they get vaccinated or not. It's their health, it's their life. I mean, I've never been vaccinated before, and I'm perfectly healthy. There's never been anything wrong about that. I've always had the choice to just sign a waiver, and it was great. My parents always thought that they weren't good for you or that they're not as good as they're said to be and that they're not necessary. [My mom] believes in immune systems. I don't know, but I mean, I think it's personal choice, and people should be able to decide if they want to or not."



Gadzhiev

"I think it's good because it's protecting people from bad diseases, and it's necessary because it can prevent big outbreaks of illnesses that happen in big countries like USA where people travel a lot from different countries. Someone brings something from somewhere else, and if kids are safe that'll be nice. I don't see anything bad about vaccines. I think that the idea that vaccines cause autism, I don't think it's true. I think it's kind of the same as the driving license where you can argue that driving license prevents some people from driving, and that's like taking away their freedom. It's like, 'no you cannot drive because you can hurt other people'. It's like the same thing. You have to get vaccines to protect other people, so it's not just your child. It's for big outbreaks of diseases."



Wright

"My brother's in the middle school, so he's having to deal with that. My mom doesn't believe in it. She thinks that people aren't supposed to tell her to vaccinate her kids or not. I think that it's not okay, I guess. I mean there is some type of thing with them causing diseases, right? There's controversy. I think people should decide for themselves if they want that to happen or not. I don't think it should be up to one single person."



Tetraul

"I agree with people that are like, 'People shouldn't be forced to care for their children in a certain way'. Then there are the people who feel that vaccines are bad. It's tough. If you want to give your child a certain education, and the requirements for that education are to treat them a certain way with this vaccine, then I don't really know what I would do. I guess I would—if I didn't want to give my child a vaccine, I guess I would just take them to a different school. I think it's more about the choice. I don't really know if vaccines are bad or not. I'm not really educated on that stuff, but it's mainly about choice."



PHOTO BY RAVEN ARNOLD

The student representatives of the presidential candidates speak about their policies and address questions from the audience. Morgan Hartlein-Allen (left) represents Green Party candidate, Jill Stein. Cairo Aguilar (center left) represents Libertarian Party candidate, Gary Johnson. Talavan Cohen (center right) represents Republican Party candidate, Donald Trump. Justin Cataldo (right) represents Democratic Party candidate, Hillary Clinton.

NPA students elect Clinton as President, Harris to US Senate

By Morgan Hartlein Allen

Staff Writer

A bright red "Vote Here" sign greeted students as they walked past the Social Hall entrance on the morning of November 8th, Election Day. Arcata residents wandered on and off of the campus—one of the designated polling locations—as they came to cast their vote for the 2016 election. During this time, NPA students gathered in the Sanctuary to hear mock presidential and senate debates performed by members of the senior IB History class. After a rousing speech on the spirit of democracy by teacher Arny King, students witnessed candidates tackle the issues of climate change, student debt, immigration, the drought, NSA surveillance, and gun control. The audience also watched debates between those supporting and opposing state propositions.

Voting booths and ballots were organized by the freshmen class and their History teacher, Arny King. All NPA students had a chance to cast their vote for their favorite politicians, including third-party candidates, and state propositions 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 64, 67 and the local Measure H. Visiting students from Sweden also watched the debates and voted with the rest of NPA. "Being from a different country makes you feel kind of distant from it, even though we know that we would be very affected and the world economy would be very affected but you still feel distance in the way that up until now it's been kind of a joke for us," Nilas Siri, an 18-year-old Swedish student, said.

As for the results of the NPA election, Hillary Clinton won the presidency with 65 out of 106 votes. Jill Stein came in second with 29 votes, and Gary Johnson came in third with 9. Donald Trump received a mere 3 votes, one from every class excluding the freshmen. Notably, all three of Trump's votes were from male students.

Stein won the freshmen vote with support from 48% of the class. Clinton won in the sophomore class with 71% support, as well as in the junior class with 50% support, and in the senior class, an overwhelming 89% of the votes. In the senate, Kamala Harris won 81% of the total student votes.

All propositions debated passed, as did Measure H. Not one received less than 68% support, the most contested being Proposition 62, the one repealing the death penalty and replacing it with life without parole. On this issue, the

freshman class was almost completely divided, with 51% voting in favor of it. Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, passed with 80% of the votes. Proposition 67, banning plastic bags in California, passed by the highest margin, receiving 90% support from the students.

The presidential election results of NPA did not match those of the greater election happening that day in the United States. Trump won the Presidency, and third-party candidates received only 4% of the overall vote. However, Propositions 56-59 passed in California as well as 64, 67, and Measure H. Proposition 62 failed.

Students react to election of Donald Trump

The day after the presidential election, students reacted to the results.

"I think, as not only a girl of ethnicity, but as a granddaughter of two immigrants, I'm really brokenhearted and I can't stop thinking about it and I can't believe that this is real," senior Tannyce Bunch said. "I feel like we lost. We lost in a really big way, and it's devastating." Senior Ava Newhouse shared Bunch's concerns, as a female, about Trump's misogynistic attitudes. "It's kind of really scary, especially being a woman. The fact that we elected a known rapist to be the president of the United States of America is just terrifying for me, personally."

Senior Georgia King said she was concerned for her higher education. "I'm gonna go off to college, and it would be nice if there was somebody in power who wanted to help with this student debt like Hillary [Clinton] did and Bernie [Sanders] did, so that's worrisome," she said.

Many were not expecting that Donald Trump would win the election. "I was, frankly, surprised and kind of disappointed because I never thought such a candidate would actually win this election," junior Isaiah Lockard expressed. Liam McLaughlin, a senior, shared a similar sentiment, as he said, "It's been really surreal looking at it I think it really shows a disconnect in the electoral system that the person who won the popular vote, that the majority of people voted for, is not going to be president."

Looking to the future, Bunch expressed, with hope, "We still have four years to turn it around, and it's not forever, thank God."

Students respond to NPA debate

By Heron Herald

Staff Writers

The Heron Herald Press Pool caught up with students right after the debate and here is what they had to say:

What did you think about the debate?

Maya Hergenrader, Freshman: "They did a really, really good job researching the topics and presenting them, and I learned some stuff. I don't have a specific opinion about the death penalty, but I'm leaning more towards a yes to repeal it vote now, because of what they said."

Clary Greacen, Sophomore: "Yeah, I think it was a really accurate representation, and it was really cool for us all to get to be a part of it I think it's really important for us as people who are going to be able to vote in a couple years, and most of us are going to be able to vote in the next election that we know how it works, and we have an idea of how much we need to know going in, so

that we know what we're voting for and we know what kind of decisions we're making."

What issue was most important that was brought up in the NPA debate?

Nilas Siri, Swedish visiting student: "To me, I think the death penalty. I'm very engaged in human rights especially with Amnesty [International] which is an advocate for not having a death penalty, so I think that has been the most interesting for me. I'm an advocate for saying no to the death penalty, and we do that kind of stuff in our Amnesty group in Sweden."

Kayitessi Mussmann: "I'd say the education for students learning a second language. I think that was important to be brought up."

Seniors who participated in the debate share what the experience was like for them:

Talavan Cohen (represented Donald Trump): I had a few high-profile gaffes ... I focused too much on at-

tacking my opponent, which is the story of Donald Trump's campaign, I know. I have to say Morgan as Jill Stein put up the best performance, but by no means am I shifting my support away from Hillary Clinton."

Justin Cataldo (represented Hillary Clinton) "I think that there's a lot of value to this exercise we did because youth voters are one of the most important demographics, and it's important that we're educated and know what the process behind making our decision before we make them for real and they actually count."

Cairo Aguilar (represented Gary Johnson): "Researching and debating for Gary Johnson was a struggle seeing as how it was pretty hard to conform to Gary Johnson's views on politics because he's still not discussed very widely at all."

Kyle Parkhurst (represented Yes on 64): "I felt like I was very on the spot, and it made me very nervous."



ALASKA

from page 1

the top ten in value of total annual catch. The town’s “extremely crazy and wild fishing season,” Aguilar noted, “brings in tons and tons of cash. People come from plenty of places to cash in on that cash.” Proudly added Arnold King, “That Copper River salmon, there’s nothing better. It’s not just marketing. It’s the best salmon on the planet, in my humble opinion.”

During the next two weeks, the students were able to talk to a number of people from the area for their documentary. “The first person we met was Rick Steiner. He’s an environmental scientist, so he shared a lot of statistics with us, and explained more of the biological side of global warming,” NPA senior Bella White said. “We interviewed local fishermen, and we met this one guy named Dune [Lankard], who’s a Native Alaskan [of the Eyak Tribe] and is an activist.” Lankard is the founder of the Eyak Preservation Council, whose stated mission is “to honor Eyak Heritage and to conserve wild salmon culture and habitat through education, awareness, and the promotion of sustainable lifeways for all peoples.” He was the subject of a feature by Time Magazine in 1999, and has been advocating for better stewardship of the environment for over two decades.

Just in that short time, climate change has transformed the Alaskan landscape considerably—as the students witnessed on their numerous excursions out of Cordova and into the region’s picturesque natural beauty. Columbia Glacier had, according to King, “retreated miles since I was in middle school---you know, since the early 2000’s.” Saddlebag Glacier, Ms. King indicated, “used to be very visible” from a iceberg-filled glacial lake below. Now, not so much. “You can’t even see the glacier anymore, and there’s no icebergs at all,” she reported. At yet another glacier, the group had the singular opportunity to walk on its surface and make face masks



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARNY KING

(From left to right) Climate Change Group leader Greg King stands with Cairo Aguilar, Georgia King, Lily Ryman, India Allen, Maddy Scott and Bella White at Sheridan Lake, with the terminus of Sheridan Glacier in the background.

out of glacial mud. The presence of crevasses and mud holes could not tarnish the experience—save for an unlucky Aguilar, who soon ended up “buried like thigh deep in mud, [with] everybody else laughing at me.”

Four days before the group’s arrival at the massive Child’s Glacier, it began calving. They witnessed great pieces of ice plunging into the Copper River. “It’d make this sound, like the world was coming to an end or something,” Aguilar recalled. That night, the group camped in front of the calving glacier, an unsettling experience for some.

Over the course of these adventures, the group gained a new understanding of how climate change is affecting unique environments---and a greater appreciation for those environments. “I’ve been all over the world. I’ve been to six conti-

nents. I’ve been on top of tall mountains and low valleys. The Amazon jungle. The Tibetan Plateau,” Mr. King said. “But one of the most beautiful places in the world remains Prince William Sound, Alaska, where I’m from. So it’s great to get to show [people] that.”

The group’s ultimate goal is to share what they’ve discovered and learned with the world, thereby spreading awareness and knowledge of climate change. When they said goodbye to Alaska, they left with an impressive amount of raw footage from their trip. Now all that remains is to synthesize their material into its most compelling form. “We’re working on [our documentary] currently. It will hopefully be finished at the end of this semester,” White revealed. “Get ready for a good documentary!”

School’s beloved Ernesto missing

By Ariel Vergen
Staff Writer

The NPA cat is known by many names: Luna, Magic, Cheese, but most commonly as Ernesto. This feline has been mysteriously absent since the beginning of the 2016 school year, and many a student has wondered what really happened to the unofficial school cat. She was last seen at the beginning of the school year, “in the courtyard” according to senior Misha Feral.

Rumors have blossomed regarding her whereabouts. One student stated, “Ernesto was abducted.” When asked to elaborate he cited aliens. Others seem certain that the school cat was dead, or got hit by a car. “Mr. Warnock said she was adopted,” junior Melina Wardynski reported. When asked where he got his information, Rick Warnock, NPA math teacher, explained in vague terms that he heard it somewhere around the school but could give very few specifics.

Finally, Larry, the Arcata United Methodist Church’s heroic caretaker, explained the situation. “She’s living with a family down in Sunny Brae.” He found out when he received a call from a veterinary clinic, as he was listed as Ernesto’s primary contact for medical emergencies. “The family had two little girls. I didn’t wanna be a jerk and take their pet away. I mean, what



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAI COOPER

Ernesto enjoys sitting on tables and interrupting classes. Although she was a bit temperamental, NPA students still loved and admired the school cat.

could I do?” Larry lamented.

Ernesto is currently safe and sound, however the mystery remains as to how the cat ended up in Sunny Brae, two miles from the school campus. “Someone had to have taken her,” Larry reflected. “There’s no way she got that far on her own.”

The NPA community can sleep peacefully with the knowledge that Ernesto is alive and well, living the suburban life. Be that as it may, this is an ongoing investigation. If anyone has information on how Ernesto travelled from the Methodist Church to Sunny Brae, please contact staff of the NPA Heron Herald.

Yurok Tribe starts youth council, NPA’s Bunch plays key role

By Ruth Magee
Staff Writer

As active members of the Yurok tribe, NPA student Tannyce Bunch and her mother, Allyson McCovey, are excited to involve tribal youth in community decisions. Through a grant requirement, the tribe has recently implemented a youth council group.

The group’s focus is to, “get the youth’s voice into our leadership,” McCovey said, the overseer of the youth group grant. The tribal governmental council, who instituted the program, also wants to inspire the youth to become leaders and role models for future generations. “A goal [of the tribe] is that we have a youth voice for deciding the services we provide them,” McCovey remarked.

The Yurok tribe regularly has volunteer community outreach programs, but the youth group is a well-supported new addition. “Everybody wants the youth to be involved. The elders want to interact with the youth, the youth want to interact with the elders and [the youth want to] have a say and learn about what’s happening in the tribal government,” McCovey commented. The group involves

Yurok teens from Crescent City, Klamath, Hoopa, Weitchpec, and all through Humboldt County. They help the tribal council decide on if they should apply for various grants, or which community projects would be helpful to youth. McCovey explained, “If we’re going to open a gym, or something like that, we want the youth’s opinion because we just don’t know what they might want.” She continued, “We don’t want to be continually telling the youth what they should and shouldn’t be doing, we want the youth telling us what they need and what they want to be doing.”

Any youth can join the group, but currently it consists of just tribal youth. Since the youth who join the group are typically the more ambitious, community role model type, they “... help us pull in their friends that maybe are struggling with choices they’re making. Then [the group members] can tell us what the needs of their friends are, so we can target things like a conference on the dangers of alcohol, or suicide,” McCovey declared.

Recently, the governmental tribal council has been focusing on suicide

prevention. As of January, there were seven suicides among youth aged 16-33, all in the small community of Weitchpec. “It’s been horrible for our young people, and we have an active state of emergency right now that focuses on stopping suicides,” reflected McCovey. The youth group has been exceptionally essential in helping the tribe find ways to address this problem.

Tannyce Bunch, a core member of the youth council group, finds being part of the group is beneficial because, “... as youth we feel our voices are not heard or taken seriously, so this group gives us a chance to be heard.” The group has only been in action since May, 2016 when Allyson Bunch and some of her co-workers decided the tribe needed a youth council group.

“I love the idea of being more involved in the Yurok community, and being able to do fun activities and travel, or be part of rallies such as the one in North Dakota about the pipeline,” exclaimed Bunch. Since the group is so new they have not had very much time to participate in events, but Bunch sees it heading in a positive direction.

SNOW

from page 1

the issue in Humboldt County. “Game Over,” the name of her organization, refers to the code that pimp traffickers follow called “The Game.” There are books and websites written about this code, and those who are part of it often have tattoos of crowns or other power symbols.

Snow, through her organization, currently teaches workshops in the community to spread awareness of the issue in Humboldt County. There is little recognition of this problem, despite the numerous factors that make this an attractive area to traffickers.

Because Humboldt is a rural area, teens are often willing to take greater risks for an opportunity to leave. “Even though I didn’t have any money, and it wasn’t that smart of an idea,” Snow explained, “I just wanted to get out of here.” She added that many traffickers also capitalize on the attraction many teens feel to the “big city life.” They tell young women who want to become actresses or models that they are agents, and they claim that if the women agree to travel to San Francisco with them, they can make the women famous.

Snow added that the marijuana grow scene often become entangled in trafficking. Many of the men who come to Humboldt to pick up large amounts of weed are drug dealers. “Hardcore drug dealers are now moving into human trafficking from drug trafficking because it’s so much more profitable,” Snow explained. “There’s barely any risk whatsoever.” The women working on these grow scenes are also in danger for being trafficked. Sometimes those who have hired them will refuse to pay unless they perform a sex act. “Even though they’re not chasing them up the hill, it’s still sex trafficking,” Snow said.

Humboldt County is situated directly on Highway 101, meaning traffickers can move their victims from the area with ease. They are able to travel their victims on a circuit from Seattle down to Portland and southern Oregon, then over to Humboldt and down to San Francisco, and back up again. They also take advantage of homeless and poverty-stricken people by offering them places to stay. The area’s high rates of poverty make it an attractive target.

Snow’s workshops focus on teaching the community how to spot traffickers and how to recognize if they or someone they know is being targeted as a victim. “I realized I never would’ve been trafficked if I’d known the red flags of a pimp,” Snow said, in retrospect. “I never would’ve gotten into that car, and I never would’ve gone to Sacramento.” Teens are commonly recruited over Facebook or at public places like the mall, so knowing how to spot a trafficker can save a potential victim.

Recently, an NPA parent, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been attempting to bring this information to the high school. They went to one of Snow’s workshops last year and were shocked to hear that sex trafficking was a prominent local issue. “My mouth hung open. I could not believe it,” the parent recalled. “I thought [the workshop] was something about Southeast Asia or Cambodia, something somewhere else.”

If the workshop comes to NPA, which it is likely to next spring, it would be the first of its kind in a California high school. Because many victims are teens, it is crucial to spread awareness to the age group most at risk. “We need to know about this just as much as we need to know about people kidnapping kids in a creepy van,” Snow said. Trafficking is a more common threat to teenagers than any other potential danger.

The parent who approached the Parent Council was excited by the support they received from other NPA parents to bring this information to their children. However, the parent realizes that there is a stigma around sex education in schools, but part of preventing trafficking is teaching students how to spot it, and this information goes hand-in-hand with sex education, an equally controversial topic. “Parents don’t want a condom going on a banana in a classroom,” the parent explained. “It is a very difficult subject.”

Snow continues to receive support from the public through her workshops. Many who attend agree that sex trafficking is a subject of which teens must be informed. “The community has been epic,” Snow remarked. “Everybody is just on spot with how do we get this to our teenagers.”

If you are being trafficked or believe someone you know is being trafficked, you can call to ask questions or anonymously report information to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-(888)-373-7888.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA BIASCA
RIGHT: Former NPA student Samantha Biasca (pictured) is a strong advocate for native rights and attended many peaceful protests during her time at the Oceti Sakowin Camp. She wants young people to understand the power they have to make a change and learn to use that power. TOP RIGHT: Despite the peaceful nature of the protests which took place near the camps local police are armed in riot gear. Many protesters are pepper sprayed or attacked by dogs. Most often these protests consist of prayer or ceremony. BOTTOM LEFT: Thousands of protesters came together to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. A variety of different tribes and countries are represented in the protester's camps.

BIASCA

from page 1

tests and contribute to the camp. “Indigenous people are just tired. We are tired of seeing this horror and tired of our rights as U.S. citizens, as humans being ignored,” she emphasized.

Biasca belongs to a few Alaska native tribes. She was stationed for a month in the Oceti Sakowin Camp along with thousands of others. Leaving her life in New York was difficult financially, but when asked how she could afford to be gone for a month she promptly replied, “You can’t afford not to. There is way too much at stake in this moment and in this time ... these atrocities are committed against us and what can we do to help prevent it.”

Biasca was afraid at first to take the journey to the camp on her own but she knew she had a responsibility to answer the call of action. “I met people there every day who were thinking the exact same things as me, who had the same hearts and struggles and beliefs and minds as I did and it was really beautiful and easy to connect with people once I was there ... we had a purpose every day when we were there.” Biasca reflected.

While at camp, Biasca attended various protests and marches while also working to prepare the camp for winter

and gather supplies. When discussing her day to day life in camp she said that, “It was this weird combination of magic and of history and of importance and indigenous power and then also historical trauma. So it was a really scary and important and powerful place, our day to day life was constantly filled with magic and horror.”

Throughout the camps everyday there is a respect for culture and an observance of various ceremonies and prayers. There are often peaceful marches and protests and even though these protests are peaceful they are met with violence from local police. Biasca reflected upon this, “There’s this historical trauma surrounding all of this that for whatever reason makes the police and the government react in such a way that they treat us as if we aren’t citizens, they treat us as if we were not human ... this cowboys and indian mentality has not died in North Dakota.”

The juxtaposition of prayer and the violence baffles Biasca, but she is continually amazed by the resilience of the people. “Everyday we hear our elders and we hear our youth ... and they continue to say, ‘We’re not here to fight the police we are here to fight the pipeline,’ and we’re out there praying for peace and for a common respect and love for the earth were all on.”

Biasca believes strongly in the Seventh Generation Principle, this asks that we make decisions while keeping in mind the effects it will have on the earth seven generations in the future. She strives to cultivate respect for the earth within her

own life in New York. She believes creating change can be made as simple as opening up dialog with the community and asking, “How can we get things done more efficiently?”

It can however be more complex and more difficult than that, especially when you are living in a place which may not support those dialogs. Biasca explained, “For too long we focus on luxury rather than listening to what we need and listening to what the earth needs. I think that were a lot healthier and a lot happier when we do listen a little bit closer to what’s around us.”

The Standing Rock protests were largely spurred on by the youth councils of various tribes. “The youth demanded that we not stand for these atrocities ... and through their leadership we did ... we have all fallen into line after that, we all came together.” Biasca said. She believes that this is the continuation of a prophecy that says, “The youth will lead the movement, that the youth will take us back to a place where we’re respecting the earth and we’re respecting ourselves and we’re demanding our right to be respected as human beings.”

Biasca urges all NPA students to recognize the influence they have on these difficult subjects. She passionately remarked, “When people are telling you what you believe in isn’t important, show them how important it is. Show them the tremendous amount of leadership and power and capability that you guys have.”

NPA grad Ashbrook ready to sail with Coast Guard

By Ruth Magee
Staff Writer

Working towards peace has always been Terra Ashbrook’s goal. After graduating from NPA, she studied at the Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre and College of the Redwoods. When she had completed her higher education, she decided to enlist in the Coast Guard so as to move towards her goal.

Ashbrook is currently stationed on an old Nazi pirate ship called the CGC Eagle that’s docked for the winter in Baltimore, Maryland. “Hitler had three tall ships during World War II, and the ship I’m on is one of those vessels. Hitler had it commissioned in the 1930’s, and then used it as a training vessel for his navy. There are rumors that the crew mutinied at the end of World War II and went to the U.S., but officially, [the U.S.] took it at the end of the war,” Ashbrook said. The German ship then sailed back to the U.S. with its new American crew.

The German sailors aboard the CGC Eagle taught the Americans how to run the ship. “There is a plaque down in one of the cabins with the signatures of all the original German crew and the first American crew from when we got the ship in 1946,” Ashbrook elaborated. Ashbrook continued “If you’re having trouble picturing it, just think “Pirates of the Caribbean.” It has three masts, 23 sails, and we use them all. My job in the Coast Guard and on this ship is the trainer, so I’m part of the crew, and it’s my job to train every single officer, officer candidate, and cadet how to sail the open seas in this giant ship.”

Ashbrook’s other job is to serve as a goodwill ambassador in foreign nations. Every year these ambassadors sail around the world, and stopping in many countries to promote ways to achieve and maintain peace at banquets, ceremonies, and dinners.

The CGC Eagle’s crew is currently working on yearly maintenance and repairs before they set off again in the spring. Ashbrook signed up for four years of active duty and is looking forward to circumnavigating the world during that period. Ashbrook graduated boot camp on September 2nd, and has been working on the ship for about a month and a half.

When asked about what the hardest part of her Coast

Guard experience has been so far, Ashbrook replied with, “Boot camp.” Out of the 140 people enlisted in her company in boot camp, there were 18 women. Only six of them made it through boot camp. Ashbrook graduated after eight weeks at the top of her class, and she says that it’s exactly like movies portray it. “You have to complete a test in order to get in, and the Coast Guard has the highest requirements. It’s an armed services test so it’s for all branches of the military, and I was in the top tenth percentile in the nation,” recounted Ashbrook.

The eight consecutive weeks she was at boot camp in Cape May, New Jersey, were the hottest of any company’s training session in 15 years. “Whenever it got too hot, they weren’t allowed to [make us do extreme physical labor] outside. They’d scream at you and you’d have to do pushups or hold things for long periods of time.” Ashbrook continued, “So when it got too hot we’d have to move everything inside and we’d all cram together in a little space and they’d make us hold full canteens in front of ourselves for 45 minutes. I lost my voice on day four, and my voice is still recovering; you aren’t allowed to talk, you have to basically scream everything.”

During boot camp, the potential soldiers had to memorize countless numerical figures. Ashbrook excelled in this and attributed it to having to memorize so many lines during plays at NPA and during her time at Berkeley. She has found over the years that NPA prepared her remarkably well for her life, and advised current NPA students, “Take care of yourself. It’s really important to learn how to manage the stress and still take care of yourself because it doesn’t get any easier and NPA is just preparing you for life.” Ashbrook also advised NPA students to, “not take these years for granted. Try to enjoy your time there because those are the moments you’re going to remember forever.” As a final piece of advice, Ashbrook recalled Amy’s cotillion lessons on how to eat and sit, and even how to dress formally have helped her get jobs and develop important professional relationships.

Ashbrook, who moved 33 times as a child, was homeschooled and eventually attended two Waldorf schools before coming to NPA. Her education never involved standardized tests, so she was convinced she would fail the SAT or score just high enough to

get into the military. She studied for a while, and ended up getting a score in the 93rd percentile. Ashbrook fondly recalls, “I was shocked when I found out, and excited because that made me eligible for practically any job in the military.”

Since Ashbrook signed up for four years, the Coast Guard will pay for her college. For a couple years after she leaves the Coast Guard, she’ll be in the reserves, meaning she won’t have to be in active duty, but could potentially be called back into action. While thinking of the future Ashbrook said, “I’m not sure if I’ll want to do something with my degree, or if I’ll want to stay in active duty, because I’ll be able to hold my same rank for a couple years if I want to come back in, but I’m not sure yet”

Ashbrook was inspired to join the Coast Guard when she was attending College of the Redwoods. “I was taking oceanography classes, and thanks to Andrew [Freeman], who was always telling us to check our sources, I made sure that I checked all of my textbooks and any sort of material that I used for my oceanography studies.” Ashbrook continued “ [I] found almost all the data either came from, or was approved by the Coast Guard. That’s actually what sparked my interest in the Coast Guard in the first place.”

While she is still young and able, Ashbrook decided to go be the person that discovers and prints the data that’s in text books. Ashbrook’s dream is to go on a ship down to Antarctica and complete studies there. This is partially because that’s one of the Coast Guard’s latest missions. The Coast Guard has a couple bases in Antarctica, and the research done there was some of the first that brought global warming to the world’s attention.

In recent years, the CGC Eagle has gone to Germany, France, and all around Europe. Ashbrook excitedly announced, “This next year we’re going to Bermuda, and then we’re going to sail all the way up from Bermuda to Quebec, Canada, with 20 other tall ships like the Eagle. It’s going to be so cool! Imagine being in another boat or plane and seeing all these pirate ships sailing along together!” The year following the tour to Canada will be encompassed by a South America tour featuring stops in Brazil, and they might go through the Panama Canal.



Minor Theater reopens under new management

By **Mattea Denney**
Staff Writer

Cinema in Arcata has been around since the beginning of cinema itself. When Isaac Minor’s plans for a hotel fell short in 1914, he decided to turn the building into the United States’s first “movie theater.” Throughout time, the Minor Theatre has undergone many changes in ownership. This makes the story of Arcata’s oldest movie theater exceptionally dynamic and interesting. You might even say it is a story that belongs on the big screen.

In 1914, two men raced against each other to build a successful hotel. These men were Noah Falk and Isaac Minor. When Minor realized that his hotel construction was falling behind Falk’s, he sought another option for his building. Minor then met a traveling film saleswomen who convinced Minor to turn his building into a theater specifically for movies, which was a new idea at the time. Opening night was December 3rd, 1914. The theater was a booming success. From the films of the Golden Age of Hollywood, to Harry Houdini’s magic shows, many attractions came to the theatre. However, the prosperity did not last for long. The Minor Theatre closed in 1938 when a newer theater opened in Arcata. The theater sat vacant until the 1970’s when David Phillips and a group of his college friends purchased the theater. Once again, the Minor Theatre was successful! Sadly, it wasn’t long before another blow hit the Minor Theatre. Coming Attractions, a screening company, leased the theatre from Phillips in 2006 for a term of 10 years. There were a lot of changes made to how to the theater was run that concerned members of the community and the theater’s employees. However, the theater was reacquired in 2016, and was returned to it’s former glory under the ownership of Josh Neff and Merrick McKinlay.

The process of regaining and reopening the theater was not an easy one. According to Merrick McKinlay, negotiation attempts with Coming Attractions were unsuccessful and therefore Neff chose to go about operating the theater on his own. Not having a lot of film experience, Neff contacted McKinlay. “He called me up because I had a reputation for doing movies and caring about film culture” explains McKinlay, who is the owner of La Dolce Video in Arcata. “I didn’t really need another project, but



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN ROSS FERRARA
Owners Josh Neff and Merrick McKinlay at the Minor Theatre’s Grand Re-opening. Everyone was dressed in formal attire for the event and was excited for what new opportunities the theatre’s re-opening would bring.

“We want to show that we really care about the families and people growing up here, in this community.”

Merrick McKinlay

I couldn’t say no. Josh had a real big community spirit. He was talking about doing free stuff for the kids, the place being more than just a bottom line, giving back to the community should be important in your business model. So, I was really pleased when I heard he had that attitude” McKinlay recounts. “It was a perfect fit.”

As for the future of the Minor Theatre, McKinlay and Neff have some

exciting plans. “Right now, we are still kind of just getting our sea legs” admits McKinlay, “but what I see going on in the future is even more user driven programs. I really want to get film clubs together. They would be kind of like book clubs” says McKinlay, “You would pay a certain price, then come watch a movie. That way, a group of people can watch a film together, and then actually sit and discuss it, like you would in a book club. Then, these groups of people could decide what movies they wanted to see and help guide the program.” Merrick McKinlay confided that there are also plans to start a Minor Theatre film festival, down the road.

One thing is for certain, giving

back to the community is the main focus of the new owners of the Minor Theatre’s owners. “We want to support the community as much a possible. We are trying to do things like \$1 admission for kids, special events, things like that to bring in the community” explains McKinlay, “We want to show that we really care about the families and people growing up here, in this community.” Neff and McKinlay’s goal is to give the people of Arcata a theatre that they can call their own. McKinlay concludes, “We want people to feel like the Minor Theatre is their theater, and we will do everything we can to make this theater Arcata’s community theater.”

Hacker school a new elective at NPA

By **Talavan Cohen**
Staff Writer

Ever since its creation, the Internet hasn’t been anything like a safe place. “From a historical perspective, those that created the Internet had a rather naive view of how society and technology works,” NPA parent Thomas Ehret explained. “It was never meant to be secure. And it never will be, unfortunately.” That hasn’t stopped the vast majority of Americans from accessing and sharing information by way of the World Wide Web—often with little concern for protecting their identity or computer. “A lot of people ... just get an antivirus program, or Adblock or something, and think that’s good enough,” Ava Newhouse, a senior at NPA, said. “It’s not really something I ever really thought about until recently.”

T. Ehret decided to begin teaching a computer safety and networking elective at NPA partially in response to this atmosphere of complacency. “I got tired of the myth that young people intuitively are better with computers,” he remarked. “They’re certainly the first generation to have access to syntactic devices from a very early age, but their general knowledge of just how computers work---or at least the internet ... and networking—is severely lacking.” Drawing from existing material, and his own expertise, T. Ehret prepared a curriculum in time to launch the new class this semester.

The elective immediately attracted a number of students to its ranks. “I personally am not very technologically savvy,” admitted Newhouse. “And I wanted to know how to protect my computer, because I tend to get a lot of viruses on it.” Others may have had their interest piqued by T. Ehret’s undeniably edgy nickname for the education he offers—“hacker school.”

Under their teacher’s tutelage, members of hacker school have learned what basic measures to take in order to avoid viruses and phishing scams, such as never opening unknown email attachments. According to Newhouse, “It taught me a lot of ... general things that are really simple to do, but most



PHOTO BY AMELIA DAVID
Thomas Ehret teaches the new elective called “hacker school” which he hopes will encourage his students to use their understanding of technology to help others rather than hurt them. He feels that the internet is not a secure place, and he hopes to help students learn to navigate it responsibly.

people don’t know.”

Also a priority for Ehret is equipping his students with valuable resources that can aid in protecting them online. His son Alex Ehret, a senior at NPA, indicated that they were being introduced to, for instance, “... using Netstat and Wireshark to be able to monitor what’s happening in your computer.” Netstat is a tool available on most operating systems which displays the

connections and statistics of a digital network, while Wireshark is a free computer program which logs the traffic that passes over a network. These weren’t the the only resources the class practiced using. “Alex found out, using this website called Who Is, that this website called www.martinlutherkingjr.com is actually owned by a group of radical white supremacists, and had completely false information on it,” Newhouse

recalled.

“[In addition], we’re teaching a lot of very technical aspects of understanding the basics of how operating systems work on the kernel level, as we call it,” T. Ehret commented. “General networking protocols, so that they understand ... how networking on the Internet works, the difference between clients, servers—that’s hopefully where we will get by the end of the year.” However, the technical aspects haven’t made the curriculum less fun and rewarding—quite the opposite, in fact. “The first day, we learned how to hack webcams, just by typing in URLs into the internet browser,” A. Ehret revealed. “And I personally got into some sort of weird German telescope that was looking at some sort of galaxy.” Unique opportunities in that vein have helped hacker school garner positive recommendations from its students to anyone mulling over whether to join. “I would say definitely join it,” Newhouse emphasized. “Learning from someone who has a lot of experience in the field really helps you understand [computers] ... better.”

Ultimately, when a student has completed his course, T. Ehret hopes that they will go on to not only protect themselves, but their families as well. “I don’t have to protect my family, because I have my dad,” A. Ehret noted. “But [others’] families might not know as much about the Internet ... Having taken the class, they could kind of act as the admin of their family, and be able to keep people from screwing up their computers.”

T. Ehret is aware that his approach involves inherent risk. After all, the knowledge required to do good with information technology is the same knowledge needed in order to do harm. It would also be unrealistically naive to suggest that the term “hacker,” even used in jest, does not carry negative connotations. “But realistically, what I do want to create is what’s called a white hat hacker,” T. Ehret said. “Somebody that knows how ... to use the machine at a very deep level, but uses it to help others ... That’s what we’re hoping for.”



Efforts underway to reduce waste on NPA campus

By Ariel Vergen
Staff Writer

Examining the garbage cans of NPA and contemplating how best to reduce the amount of waste the school produces have been recent activities of senior Cheyenne Bailey. She volunteers for a local organization, Zero Waste Humboldt, and wants to help educate people and businesses on how to best reduce landfill waste.

Zero Waste Humboldt is an organization of like-minded individuals, working towards their name—no waste in this county. “The main goal of Zero Waste Humboldt is to provide education,” Bailey explained, saying that what is most important is “realizing that you can make those zero waste choices.”

The organization has taken action in community events such as Reggae on the River, the North Country Fair, and the annual I-Block Party, which would usually generate plenty of waste for landfills. Zero Waste Humboldt provides compostable or washable dishes, drastically decreasing the amount of trash. They also work toward educating the people of Humboldt towards the actions an individual can take to reduce waste. “We could have better systems,” Bailey remarked. “It’s really difficult to have businesses be willing to

spend a little bit of extra money for renewable non disposable things. You know businesses want to make the most profit they can and sometimes ... compromises of that profit don’t come easy for people.” Bailey is a part of Zero Waste Humboldt’s high school leadership program

“I’m looking to help my school out basically. Help them be more aware and have something that can continue on. Our motto is ‘choose to reuse.’”

Cheyenne Bailey

which allows students to educate their peers on recycling, composting, and other zero waste opportunities within their school. “[The high school leadership program] had its first meeting within the last two weeks. There’s three people from Arcata and three people from McKinleyville, and I’m the only one representing NPA,” Bailey said. “We’re all doing waste audits to start off our projects.” A waste audit involves volunteers going through a day, or a few days worth of garbage to see how much of the trash could be recycled or



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEYENNE BAILEY
Above is all of the trash produced by the student body on Monday, November 7th, which includes a significant amount of materials that could be recycled. This picture is from senior Cheyenne Bailey’s first trash audit at NPA, completed in association with Zero Waste Humboldt.

composted. “Then I want to do a presentation that helps people realize our campus situation,” she explained. “My goal [is] to really like get a baseline of where our school campus is at, and it changes everyday, it changes with every class.” Others in the high school leadership program have similar ideas and hope to see a change in garbage content after the first waste audit. “I’m looking to help my school out basically. Help them be more aware and

have something that can continue on. Our motto is ‘choose to reuse,’” Bailey recited, “and sometimes I just repeat that in my head because it’s just so easy to remember.” Once she graduates, she hopes that someone from NPA will take her spot representing the school for Zero Waste Humboldt. “If someone takes over, which I hope someone will, maybe they can move on to bigger and better projects after the trash audits,” she surmised. Bailey reminds everyone, choose to reuse!

Mumm embraces new roll at NPA

By Rachel Post
Staff Writer

Carl Mumm grew up in the heart of the Midwest, right by the Missouri River, in a working class town called Sioux City, Iowa. It was there that his love for English, writing, and music was born.

At his high school in Sioux City, Mumm began to develop the skills that would later benefit his career as a writer. Though the school was stronger in the sciences than in English, he found his place in the debate club. “Our debate program was what gave me all the organizational skills that I needed By the time I got to college I could write any essay really quickly. I mean, it was just—it was training,” he reflected.

Mumm also began his journey as a musician in Sioux City. In the fourth grade he took up cello and still plays to this day. When he went to Iowa State University, he majored in English, but Mumm confessed, “Truth be told when I was in college I was mostly in the music department as a non-major, although I was really interested in mostly the [writing] composition classes at the time.” This is where his love for both writing and music were piqued.

As well as being a teacher and a musician, Mumm is a published writer. His focus is mainly in what he calls, “Social Science Fiction,” a genre previously untapped. He said, “When I’m not teaching, I’m largely reading Science Fiction. Whether I like it or not, it’s for my writing, so it’s not really by a choice. It’s more like, ‘What’s happening in the field? How are they doing it? What are the kinds of things they’re doing?’ and, ‘Is anyone doing this kind of social science writing?’ and the answer is: no.” Although he seeks to have his novels published and distributed, it is clear that the also has a love for the art form. “I want to have a passionate reason for doing it. A meaning. Kind of like Steinbeck with Grapes of Wrath, you know, he wanted to punch people below the belt,” Mumm declared. “I feel like I have to have a purpose to it. Otherwise I just don’t think it’s worth doing.”

After having left Arizona University in the middle of his second Masters of Fine Arts program, Mumm started teaching in 1988 in Tokyo. He taught there for eight years while getting credentialed in English as a Second Language (ESL) before moving to Los Angeles to try his hand at screenwriting. Although the screenwriting never took off, while he was in LA he taught a class of inner city middle schoolers. Mumm recounted, “I mean it was 90 percent classroom management at least. It was such a sad, difficult thing to do.” He continued painfully, “I had these middle schoolers who showed me their bullet wounds ... and a lot of them had broth-



PHOTO BY AMELIA DAVID
New teacher Carl Mumm hopes to instill a love for reading and literature in his students. He is a published writer and plays the cello, in addition to teaching.

“When I’m not teaching, I’m largely reading Science Fiction. Whether I like it or not, it’s for my writing, so it’s not really by a choice. It’s more like, ‘What’s happening in the field? How are they doing it? What are the kinds of things they’re doing?’ and, ‘Is anyone doing this kind of social science writing?’ and the answer is: no.”

Carl Mumm

ers who were killed in front of them, so it was different. I really liked trying to help those kids but it just wasn’t—we don’t have the means to do that.” Shortly after leaving LA, Mumm began another teaching job, similar to his first. He said, “I taught at a private school in Madison, Wisconsin to adults who were going to University from all over the world, so it was back to the ESL thing ... The school lacked a lot of things but the students were really good.”

Mumm followed his wife while she got her Ph.D. which brought them to North Dakota for two years. Though he was not teaching, Mumm’s musical passions were reinforced in a local orchestra. He remembered, “We played Carmina Burana, which I always wanted to play, and we played ... this really hard stuff that we shouldn’t have played. Our orchestra wasn’t big enough but the conductor was very ambitious, which was good for me.” He was able to find a balance between all his interests.

Mumm moved to Humboldt at the beginning of this school year in order to teach at NPA. Though most places seem similar to him, one thing surprised him about Humboldt. He emphasized, “It’s just so bizarre for me to have the kind of fog that you have up here. I’ve just never been anywhere that has this. The only other time I’ve seen it is in Stephen King’s film, ‘The Fog.’” Though there were many reasons for Mumm to come to NPA, he counts the main one as the students. He was enticed by the idea of students that really want to learn, and his goal is to leave his pupils with a love for literature. He expressed, “A love for reading— That’s really important. When we first came here, a former NPA student helped us with some moving stuff. It was really interesting.” He continued, “He was working with us all day and he had three novels in his backpack. Always reading. That’s really the goal.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL ROSEGG
Paul Robeson was tried during the Mccarthy era for his open support of communist ideals. In his play Aluko wants to emphasize Robeson's strength and perseverance.

Actor, playwright and singer Aluko performs “Call Mr. Robeson” at OSF

By Amelia David
Staff Writer

Tayo Aluko gave up his career in architecture in 2008 to write his very own play, “Call Mr. Robeson,” which the Juniors and Seniors were lucky enough to attend in Ashland. Aluko had been in one other play professionally and had never written his own, but he felt that the story of Paul Robeson was one which had to be told.

Aluko was born in Nigeria and moved to England to enroll in a boarding school at the age of 16. He was involved in various small productions and consistently participated in his school's choir. On June 23rd, 1995, he was asked to sing at a fundraiser in Liverpool. Since the fundraiser was scheduled for the morning, he decided to sing a more spiritual tune called ‘My Lord What a Morning’. After the performance, he was approached by a woman who told him he reminded her of Paul Robeson. At the time, he had no recollection of the name, but about two months after this encounter, he was looking through the American history section in a library and happened upon Paul Robeson a biography, written by Martin Cornwall Doberman, and decided to borrow it. This was the beginning of his extensive research on Robeson.

Robeson was a singer who used his music to call attention to civil rights issues and spoke openly about the flaws of capitalism. He was tried during the McCarthy era, a time in which thousands of Americans were accused of being communists and were aggressively investigated and questioned before government or private-industry panels, committees and agencies. During this time, he navigated personal struggles while remaining strong. Aluko feels that Robeson's trial is particularly inspiring and shows him at his best, as a fighter.

Originally Aluko was looking to hire a playwright to put this man's story into words. Three different people attempted to write the play for him, “But it never really felt like what I felt, and 10 years later I decided to have a go at writing it myself,” Aluko explained. The play began as a six character play and increased to a cast of 14 people. After a reading of the play at a singing conference, the idea of a mono-drama came about. With help from experienced professionals he was able to transform his play into something that would be easier and cheaper to tour with.

He read various books and watched documentaries. When he was just beginning his research, there weren't many sources discussing Robeson. Aluko explains that this is because the story of Paul Robeson isn't easily accessible and is often buried in history lessons. But since then, he said there have been a few books and movies speaking to his accomplishments. One source he used which he found particularly interesting was a radio show called Soul Music on BBC. Each installation of the show chooses

one song and interviews various people and has them talk about their personal experience with the song. One show was about the song ‘Old Man River’, by Paul Robeson. One man they interviewed said that as he was wheeled into surgery, the man pushing him didn't say anything but simply began to sing this song. The man just thought to himself, “If I die now I know I will die happy.” Aluko recalled this particular story fondly and felt that it was an important part of his research.

When the show was finished he toured with it all over the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, various places in the US and Canada, and in Nigeria multiple times. Right before coming to Ashland, the show played in Wales, and, in November, he returned to Canada to perform in the Northwest Territories. “I just would never have expected to ever go anywhere like that ... I just never thought about it,” Aluko said excitedly when describing his latest tour.

His original hope in coming to Ashland was to be a part of the Shakespeare Festival. Unfortunately, he never heard back from anyone from the festival, however he was not discouraged and proceeded to call a couple of venues and booked the Ashland Community center. He felt that it's important he perform the play during the festival. “[Robeson] was the most famous Othello ever, so people who are interested in Shakespeare should know about him.” Aluko explained.

He was poster the streets of Ashland and handing out flyers when Jean Bazemore happened upon him and immediately recognized the value of the play. He was very happy to have our school attend the play. He felt that it is important for younger people to learn about Robeson. “Through his life we can better understand American History, and not just American history but really the whole world ... as well as the conflicts between capitalism and communism, issues of race, anti colonialism,” Aluko elaborated. “He understood and fought in all those struggles ... I find his story really inspiring.”

Like Robeson, Aluko uses his art as a way to inspire change and speak about his own philosophies. In the play, he attributes Robeson's strength and powerful ability to defend himself to his belief in mother Africa. He explained this part was added to accentuate his own point of view. “I personally believe in African society, and people of african descent suffer from not being sufficiently aware of, or proud of, their great African history and traditions.”

Aluko hopes that after watching his play people will be inspired to be activists in their own way, so as to contribute to the betterment of society. “If Paul Robeson could go through what he went through and refuse to give up his principles and suffer so much, then I think it is incumbent on people like me to continue that struggle in my own way,” he said, encouraging others to find a way they too can fight for the issues they are passionate about.

Post: A reflection on gender

By Rachel Post
Staff Writer

I was seven when I first learned about the constraints of gender roles. I was sitting with my family and my brother asked me, “Rachel, would you rather be a girl or a boy?” I considered it carefully, weighing what I knew about boys and what I knew about girls and finally came to the conclusion: “Boy.” It was simple for me. I didn't see the ideas of boy and girl as having to be separate yet, so I was not expecting my mother's reaction. “Really?” she asked me, taken aback. I was so surprised at her surprise that I backpedaled and said, “Just so I could pee standing up,” even though that wasn't really the reason. That was the first time I realized the true labeling and separation of genders in our society. What is interesting for me to look back on now is how much of a learned ideal that is. As a child, I had no concept of why male and female were separate. It was something I learned as being a way to stay within the parameters of our society. Over time, however, as I've grown and begun forming my own ideas, that set of beliefs has fallen away.

Humans are very good at labeling things. This can be good or it can be detrimental depending on the object. Labeling helps us to categorize and organize our lives. In Theory of Knowledge, you are taught the metaphor of the sand. If we tried to label every grain of sand in a beach, the words would lose their meaning because it would be impossible to speak coherently naming every single thing you see. So we generalize and call it sand. When it comes to human beings, however, this method is flawed. Because humans are so unique, when we generalize them and give them one label, it breeds stereotypes. This is how gender roles came about. On one level, it was important for us to separate the sexes to survive but sex is a physical attribute. Gender is entirely to do with personality. How could we possibly lump all of the

same attributes on every single person with female genitalia and the others on people with male genitalia? It doesn't make sense because humans are so much more complicated and nuanced than that.

This brought me to the question of whether we even need gender. For a moment it seemed like things would be so much simpler if we just erased the entire idea of gender separation. There would be no women's rights movement or wage gap, for one thing. But then I thought about why people would want to identify in the first place. It's similar to sexual identity. People find safety in groups. For some individuals, being a part of a community dictated by certain personality traits can be comforting. On the other hand, some people prefer not to label themselves at all and find comfort in not feeling like they have to fit into a box.



Post

“Humans are very good at labeling things. This can be good or it can be detrimental depending on the object.”

Rachel Post

Both of these ideas are valid in my eyes. Gender is about personal identity. You can identify as a woman and not fit into all the stereotypes—most people don't. Or you could identify as agender and defy stereotypes entirely. For centuries, humans have functioned under such strict gender norms that there hasn't been room for exploration outside of the binary. But now is that time. So I encourage you to reflect on your own gender and form your own beliefs on what it should be. This is the time for change.

School counselor Bixler joins NPA staff

By Leah Selcer
Staff Writer

The success and happiness of the student body is valued within the NPA community. Because of this, NPA has brought in a new school counselor, Daniel Bixler, a psychologist with a strong interest in the mental health of adolescents.

“Part of working with adolescents is just meeting that client where they are and then helping them meet their own goals that are inside of them,” Bixler said. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from HSU and then attended Antioch University New England Graduate School.

Bixler is working under the supervision of Carmela Wenger, a local psychologist, to obtain his Marriage and Family Therapy license.

While many think that psychologists only work with people when they face struggles, Bixler is quick to debunk this myth. “My personal philosophy professionally is that everybody on Earth would benefit from at least 10 counseling sessions a year,” Bixler said. “I think one of the things that's a problem with our society today is that often people think the only reason to get into counseling is when we have problems. I don't think that counseling is only for problems, but when we do have problems, it's an outside perspective that helps us get through it.”

Bixler brings a variety of other life experiences to his work. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, he ran Upward Bound, a program to help students succeed in college at College of the Redwoods, and interned in lock-down facilities counseling adolescents on the East Coast. Even now, he continues to run the business he started — Humboldt Hot Sauce. “Half my week I'm a therapist and half my week I'm a hot sauce salesperson,” Bixler said.

At Antioch University's graduate school where Bixler studied, he appreciated the client-centered approach to his training as well as the spiritual focus it provided. “Each of us are very different from each other, so that's why I think in the long run we'll see that client centered therapy really works. Some of the

fundamental premises like, ‘You are the expert of yourself. I'm not the expert of you,’ Bixler explained.

At NPA, Bixler hopes to help students in a variety of ways which include, but go beyond, traditional counseling methods such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. “I'm pretty creative, and I have a tendency to look inside the client and see what they enjoy and what they push away and try to help them find something that will actually work for them,” Bixler said.

“I think one of the things that's a problem with our society today is that often people think the only reason to get into counseling is when we have problems. I don't think that counseling is only for problems, but when we do have problems, it's an outside perspective that helps us get through it.”

Daniel Bixler

While the details of the counseling services that NPA provides through Bixler are still being finalized, he currently has space for four to five student appointments a week. Legally, high school students may attend counseling without a parent's knowledge or consent. In addition, all that is discussed during the session is kept confidential. Students who are interested should contact Michael Bazemore or another trusted adult to schedule the free appointments with Bixler, who has an office off campus in Eureka.

“To me, it's an honor and a sacred journey that we're all on, being alive. To me, it's an honor to be able to sit with somebody in the realm of counseling and interpersonal growth. To join someone on that journey is inspiring, even when it's very difficult,” Bixler said. “Every kid is a champion. It's just a matter of finding your way to that spot.”



NPA middle school update

By Morgan Hartlein Allen
Staff Writer

The information on the NPA Middle Years Programme was provided by the 6th grade core teacher, Patti Mackay. She teaches English and History and serves as a self-proclaimed “home base” for her class.

Dan Ladd, a wildlife major at HSU and father of two students at the middle school, started the Wildlife Club. He takes students on field trips and works on nature studies with them. The creative writing club is new this year. In the future, members hope to publish a literary publication similar to that of the high school. Electives aren't available for the 6th-8th grade students, so clubs such as these allow them to pursue extracurricular interests with the support of their classmates and teachers.

A garden was recently planted down the hill from the middle school campus. The goal of the project is to eventually install a greenhouse where students can work on science projects as well as cultivate food for the high school and middle school lunches. Parents volunteered to clear out blackberry bushes, and students have painted river rocks for the garden box and planted some seedlings. Mackay articulated that the vision of the project is to have the middle school students take over and make the garden their own.

“It’s been nice to see them meld into one big group this year.”

Patti Mackay

The 6th grade students recently completed a project called ‘Meet the Players’. The class looked at a reading from classic literature and outlined characters to explore character development and the author’s choices, and then they were asked to write an essay about their favorite character to further prepare for the event. For the ‘Meet the Players’ event, students put on a social tea while dressed as someone from the novel. They would then answer questions proposed by the audience—composed of students from other grades—as the character they had chosen to be. “We did it last year,” Mackay explained. “It was a lot of fun.”

‘Lunch Buddies’, a weekly event where 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students eat lunch with a someone from a different



PHOTO BY MORGAN HARTLEIN ALLEN

Patti Mackay (standing), the 6th grade teacher at the NPA middle school, reads to her class. Mackay provided the information on the middle school for the 2016 fall update.

grade, happens every Thursday. Its purpose is to foster the sense of community within the school and develop friendships between grades. Teachers provide activities such as scavengers hunts, word puzzles, or holiday-themed origami as fun ways to help the students break the ice. “I have to say the 8th graders and the 7th graders have really stepped up to make the sixth graders feel at home here,” Mackay said. “They just scooped them right up with open arms.”

With this year’s addition of a third class, it was import-

ant that all the students made an effort to include those who were new to the school. Mackay noted that she has seen students from all grades assisting each other in academics as well as social situations. “It’s been nice to see them meld into one big group this year ... It just makes my heart go,” Mackay exclaimed, tapping her chest with her hand for emphasis. She explained that it has been a semester of organized chaos, but she thoroughly enjoyed it.

Chemistry teacher brings worldly perspective

By Raven Arnold
Staff Writer

A lover of science and native of France, Sara Hammoutene has added a unique perspective to the NPA community. After growing up in France and completing her studies in New Orleans, she chose to come to our school to share her knowledge of chemistry and the world.

Sara Hammoutene is very passionate about the sciences. She believes that they offer a unique perspective on the world. “I think that sometimes people will know a little bit more about our environment and how everything works [and] they’ll be more humble and nicer to each other, and the world will be a better place. I’m kind of trying to spread the science one kid by one,” Hammoutene explained. This is a philosophy that she brings to her AP chemistry class every day. By sharing her view of the world through the lens of science with her students, she hopes to make the world a better place.

Hammoutene’s love of science sparked at a very



Hammoutene

young age. This appreciation was greatly influenced by her mother’s career as a physicist. “When I was maybe eight years old ... my mom—‘Santa’—got me this gift for Christmas, and it was a whole [set of] magic tricks with chemistry for kids,” she said. “And I loved it. I couldn’t stop playing with it ... I was like, ‘chemistry’s cool!’” This childhood experience is something that she car-

“I like when you see that the person got it and that you’re like, ‘oh my god I just put this in the brain of someone. I just put some new knowledge in it.”

Sara Hammoutene

ried throughout her education. Since then, she has been constantly inspired to learn more. She went on to study physical chemistry at the Sorbonne University in Paris. From there, she moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where she continued her education until she graduated last summer.

Growing up, Hammoutene lived in a small town named Sceaux just outside of Paris. She said, “I kind of had the best

of both lives being in a small town, something that looks kind of like Arcata, having all those farmers’ markets and all those things, and then being 10 minutes—15 minutes ... from the crazy Paris.” Living in a small town while also being able to visit a huge city like Paris gave her access to a lot of culture. As a kid, she was involved in a lot of improvisational and classical theater. Later, she gave this up in order to focus her time on playing volleyball, a sport that she has been very passionate about for many years.

Living in the United States after growing up in France has highlighted a few key cultural differences for her. Here, she has noticed a greater sense of positivity. “Sometimes [in France] we have really smart people who don’t believe in themselves, and in the US ... some people are just so up there and can talk with people, and that’s something that I really like here that is different,” she explained. “People are more open and smiling here.”

Although she has not been teaching for long, Hammoutene is very aware of the many rewarding qualities of this job. She notices the positive influence that she has on her students and is very appreciative of it. She said, “I like when you see that the person got it and that you’re like, ‘oh my god I just put this in the brain of someone. I just put some new knowledge in it.”

Exchange students Crotti, Uchotananan and Yang enrich NPA

By Mattea Denney
Staff Writer

For Italian exchange student Angela Crotti, coming to the United States for school has been a dream come true. She said it has “always been a big dream of mine. It is a big dream for lots of people, to go to the ‘lucky America.’ My father is very excited for me because when he was younger, it was his dream to come here, but his family didn’t have enough money.” Crotti called her decision to spend her junior year in the U.S. “the best decision I ever made, and the best experience I ever had.”

So far, Crotti’s favorite thing about Humboldt is the people. “The people in America are so nice!” Crotti exclaimed. “Everyone greets you and is so friendly. Everyone helps me with the language. It is very exciting for a stranger.” However, friendliness isn’t the only thing Angela likes about the people of Humboldt. “In my city, I am the only one with dreadlocks, but here, everyone has dreadlocks! It is amazing!”

Crotti is really enjoying her experience of NPA. Her favorite class is History because Andrew, her favorite teacher, is in charge. She also likes how the schooling in America is different from the schools in Italy. “The teachers here are so helpful and friendly. In Italy, if I have a question in math, the teacher gets angry. They think you didn’t study or do your homework,” Crotti explained. “Here, the teacher is friendly and helps me. We work together. That doesn’t happen in Italy.” The size of the school has also been a big change for Angela. She described her school in Italy as “a skyscraper with many, many students. NPA is so small!” As for the students at NPA, “They are very strange,” Crotti admitted. “But I like that because it makes them different from everyone. That’s good.”

By Ruth Magee
Staff Writer

Attawit Uchotananan is known in America as Dan. He is an exchange student at NPA from Bangkok, Thailand. He is a junior and has so far greatly enjoyed everything he’s done in school and with his host family. Dan’s school in Thailand is comprised of extremely tall buildings and there are over 5,000 kids who attend it. Dan has found Humboldt County to be very different from Thailand, and one of the main differences he immediately noticed was the climate. Dan described the seasons in Thailand as “hot, really hot, really really hot, and unbearably hot.”

While NPA is a completely different educational environment than Dan is used to, he has found the teaching style to be familiar because he took an English course in Thailand from a native English speaker. NPA has been a welcoming environment to Dan and he’s made many new friends, but what he misses most about Thailand are his friends at home. In his free time, Dan enjoys participating in visual arts such as drawing and painting. He also enjoys listening to music and playing games. Dan’s favorite physical activity is running, and his favorite subject is physics. Dan plans on spending the rest of the school year at NPA and is excited to better his English, make many new friends and experience new activities in America through the school and his host family.

By Ariel Vergen
Staff Writer

Rachel Yang is an exchange student from Shijiazhuang, China, and is delighted to be at NPA. Rachel has found everyone in the junior class to be incredibly welcoming. She has found many differences between her culture and that of Arcata, and she spoke about a few.

On homework, she reflected upon how much she adores NPA’s curriculum. “In english class [at NPA] everyone reads books and we discuss about it, and it’s so cool because in China we even don’t have time to read books,” Rachel remarked. “Every day we can’t even finish our homework! Even if we have time for books we don’t discuss about them because everyone has their own books, not everyone read the same one. It’s hard to find someone to discuss a book to.”

The nature of the work we do here is also favorable to her. She explained that, “The homework here ... you can use your mind. Not like in China. The teacher gives us standard answer and all you have to do is to recite it.”

When she was in China, she looked up the weather for the state of California to see what types of clothes to pack. “I saw that it was very warm in California, so I didn’t pack the warm coats,” she revealed. Upon arrival to Humboldt, she realized that she needed to go on a shopping trip!

In China and at NPA, Rachel loves her language classes. Chinese and English are her favorites, and she plays “a little bit” of piano.